

Message Text

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FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL ONLY
USIA/IEA
CINCPAC - USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 16 - 22, 1977

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

A. POSITIVE INDICATIONS ON BASES - ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS,

PRESIDENT MARCOS SOUNDED AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE CONCERNING THE OUTCOME OF THE ONGOING BASES DISCUSSIONS. IN AN ARMED FORCES DAY SPEECH, HE CALLED THE BASES "... A VITAL PEACEKEEPING APPARATUS IN THE REGION OF SEA AND THROUGHT THE WORLD." REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS, HE SAID THEY ARE GOING WELL, "LARGELY BECAUSE A NEW PAGE HAS BEEN TURNED IN PHILIPPINE-US RELATIONS." IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH VISNEWS, THE PRESIDENT SOUNDED AN UPBEAT THEME ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE DECLARED THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY NO LONGER A PROBLEM, AND IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION RELATING TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN LIEU OF COMPENSATION, HE STATED, "I CANNOT THINK OF ANY ISSUES THAT WILL BE THAT DIFFICULT."
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THE PRESIDENT RULED OUT THE NEED FOR THE BASES AGAINST INTERNAL THREATS TO THE PHILIPPINES. HE REITERATED THE EARLIER THEM-- THAT THE BASES ARE NEEDED FOR REGIONAL AND WORLD SECURITY. WHEN PRESSED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE US CONGRESS LINKING A HUMAN RIGHTS CLAUSE TO THE BASES AGREEMENT, MARCOS MADE IT CLEAR THE ALTERNATIVE OF PHILIPPINE OPERATION OF THE BASES WAS A POSSIBILITY. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE DID NOT FORSEE ANY SUCH SITUATION

ARISING.

WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE ASCERBIC RHETORIC AND EMOTIONALLY CHARGED DIATRIBES HAVE ALMOST DISAPPEARED FROM THE MEDIA. THERE ARE STILL OCCASIONAL REFERENCES TO THE BASES, COUCHED IN HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC TERMS BY SOME OF THE OLD "WAR HORSES" OF THE PRESS, BUT THESE HAVE NOT RESULTED IN ANY RESUMPTION OF THE SNIPING AT THE BASES OR THE MILITARY WHICH FORMERLY WAS THE FAVORITE PASTIME OF THE PRESS.

B. REFERENDUM AND THE AFTERMATH -- VOTING RESULTS IN SATUDAY'S

REFERENDUM PRODUCED FEW SURPRISES WITH THE PRO-MARCOS TIDE ROLLING TO A 9-1 CONVINCING MARGIN. THE BALLOTING WAS ORDERLY. A FEW CHARGES OF IRREGULARITIES HAVE BEEN LODGED, MOSTLY CONTESTING THE NUMBER OF AFFIRMATIVE VOTERS IN SOME PRECINCTS. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE OUTCOME OF THE REFERENDUM, PRESIDENT MARCOS REAFFIRMED AN EARLIER PLEDGE TO HOLD LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 1978. IF SUCH ELECTIONS ARE INDEED HELD, POSSIBLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS, IT WILL PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY FOR USIS AND EQUALLY PRESENT A PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROBLEM SINCE THE QUESTION OF US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE AN ISSUE IN THE CAMPAIGNING.

C. REPREEVE OF TWO NURSES -- I CONTRAST TO PUBLIC REACTION

DURING THE TRIAL, NEWS OF THE NEW TRIAL GRANTED THE TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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FILIPINO NURSES WAS RELATIVELY UNBIASED AND UNEMOTIONAL. IT WAS WIDELY COVERED BY THE MEDIA, AND THUS FAR HAS GENERATED ONLY ONE NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL. THE EDITORIAL NOTED THE OVERWHELMING CONDEMNATION OF US JUSTICE UPON CONVICTION OF THE TWO NURSES, BUT THEN SAID IN LIGHT OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT, PERHAPS THE "PHILIPPINES REACTED TOO QUICKLY IN SHOCK AND ANGER." IT CITED THE DECISION OF THE APPEALS JUDGE AS "TRIUMPH OF JUSTICE", AND CONCLUDED, "IT VINDICATES OUR FATH IN THE FAIRNESS AND SINCERITY OF THE AMERICA COURTS IN DEALING OUT GENUINE JUSTICE TO EVERY PERSON REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED OR RELIGION."

II SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

A PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT - - PRESIDENT

CARTER'S DECEMBER 15 PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT MARCOS BY AMBASSADOR NEWSOM ON TUESDAY, DEC. 20. LATER THAT DAY, USIS SENT THE STATEMENT TOGETHER WITH A PERSONAL LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL TO 39 EDITORS, COLUMNISTS AND MEDIA OWNERS, AND ADDITIONAL COPIES WERE SENT

TO 50 TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ON THURSDAY, DEC. 22, THE
BULLETIN TODAY RAN THE FULL TEXT OF THE CARTER HUMAN RIGHTS

STATEMENT WITHOUT COMMENT.

B. PRE-REFERENDUM VTR SHOWING -- TWO DAYS BEFORE THE

DEC. 17 REFERENDUM, USIS ARRANGED A SPECIAL SCREENING OF THE
IMV "HUMAN RIGHTS" VIDEOTAPE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
PHILIPPINE ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE BOARD INCLUDES
SEVERAL MAJOR "OPPOSITION" FIGURES, AMONG THEM FORMER PRESIDENT
MACAPAPAGAL, FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CALIXTO ZALDIVAR,
FORMER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SALVADOR P. LOPEZ, FORMER
SENATOR LORENZO TANADA, FORMER SENATOR FRANCISCO "SOC" RODRIGO
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AND FORMER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ALEJANDRO ROCES, ALL OF WHOM
WERE PRESENT FOR THE SHOWING. THESE AND OTHER PRESENT WERE
PLEASED ALSO TO RECEIVE THE POST'S "SPECIAL PACKET ON HUMAN
RIGHTS DAY" WHICH INCLUDED ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT BY CHARLOTTE
ASTOR, AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG, CHARLES ABERNATHY, AMBASSADOR ANDREW
YOUNG, AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER.

AT WEEK'S END POHR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EMMANUEL "NOLI"
SANTOS CAME TO USIS TO DISCUSS FOLLOWUP USE OF THE VTR, POSSIBLY
WITH CIVIC GROUPS AND HIS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION GRADUATE
UNIVERSITY CLASSES. SANTOS WAS GIVEN COPIES OF THE CARTER
DEC. 15 STATEMENT, WHICH HE PROMISED TO PASS ON TO THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE POHR BOARD.

C. FILIPINO LABOR LEADERS QUOTED ON IMPRESSIONS OF U.S. --

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICAN LABOR AND THE REEL COMMITMENT
OF THE LABOR UNIONS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS OF THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT WERE THE IMPRESSIONS CITED BY TWO FILIPINO LABOR
LEADERS OF THEIR VISIT TO THE U.S. THE TWO, BOTH OFFICERS OF
THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES, WERE TRAVELLING WITH
A GRANT FROM USAID.

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THEY VISITED LABOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND ATTENDED THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AFL/CIO IN LOS ANGELES. USIS MANILA ALERTED WASHINGTON TO THE PRESENCE OF THESE TWO LEADERS AND AN INTERVIEW WAS ARRANGED. THE RESULTING STORY, WHICH CONTAINED THE ABOVE OBSERVATIONS, HAS BEEN CARRIED IN TWO MANILA PAPERS.

E. AMERICAN MUSIC IN CEBU--

ON DECEMBER 3, USIS CEBU'S LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTER WAS THE SITE OF AMERICAN PIANIST RICHARD CORBETT'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CONCERT. MR. CORBETT, CURRENTLY VISITING PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AT SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY IN DUMAGUETE, PLAYED WORKS OF GERSHWIN, MOZART, AND DEBUSSY FOR A GROUP OF NINETY, INCLUDING NUMEROUS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AUDIENCE MEMBERS. LOCAL CRITICS TERMED THE PERFORMANCE "EXCEPTIONAL", AND BPAO TEEPLE EXPRESSED USIS CEBU'S CONTINUED ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS LOCAL ARTISTS SERIES WHICH HAS ATTRACTED NUMEROUS ARS CONTACTS TO PERFORMANCES OF AMERICAN MUSIC.

F. PRESIDENT VISIT USIS -- THE SCREENING AT USIS OF "MAC-

ARTHUR" AT THE PERSONAL REQUEST OF MRS. MARCOS TURNED INTO A STAR-STUDED EVENT WHEN THE PRESIDENT ALSO SHOWED UP ACCOMPANIED BY SECRETARY OF LABOR BLAS OPLE; SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY VICENTE
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PATERNO; GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM MANAGER AND PHILIPPINE AIRLINE PRESIDENT ROMAN A. CRUZ; HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COMMISSION AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER DIRECTOR JOSE CONRADO BENETIZ, JR.; AND TIMES JOURNAL COLUMNIST CARMEN

GERRERO-NAKPIL. THE THREE MARCOS CHILDREN ALSO ACCOMPANIED THEIR PARENTS ON THIS FIRST EVER VISIT TO USIS. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. NEWSOM WERE HOSTS FOR THE OCCASION. ALSO PRESENT WERE DCM AND MRS. STULL AND CPAO AND MRS. DAWSON. COMING ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE REFERENDUM, THE VISIT PROVIDED AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE RESULTS,

SOME OF WHICH WERE STILL COMING IN FROM DISTANT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. MRS. MARCOS, WHO CALLED GENERAL MACARTHUR "THE HERO OF MY CHILDHOOD AND EVER SINCE," OFFERED SPECIAL THANKS TO USIS FOR THE SCREENING.

G. SUBIC BAY BANK ROBBERY BACKSTOPPING -- THE INFORMATION

SECTION SPENT MUCH OF THE WEEK CORRINATING PUBLIC STATEMENTS WITH SUBIC BAY PIOS AND SERVICING THE MANILA-BASED MEDIA (AP, UPI, REUTERS, ETC.) WITH AUTHENTIC REPORTS FROM THE SITE. THROUGHOUT THE 45 HOURS ORDEAL, THE PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY AND OLONGAPO STRINGERS CONSISTENTLY SENSATIONALIZED THE STORY, OFTEN PUBLISHING AND AIRING UNVERIFIABLE INFORMATION AND HEARSAY. THE MAJOR NEWS AGENCIES, IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY AND BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS, REPORTED THE STORY STRAIGHT. (THE EXCEPTION WAS AN EARLY UPI LEAD SAYING U.S. MARINES "STORMED" THE BANK. UPI CORRECTED THIS AS SOON AS WE CALLED THE MISTAKE TO THEIR ATTENTION NOT SO THE LOCAL PRESS*) THE EXPERIENCE ONCE AGAIN HIGHLIGHTS THE DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH OF "THIRD WORLD" AND "WESTERN" MEDIA.

III. WHAT'S WRONG WITH WASHINGTON UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PROBLEM WAS UNDERLINED WITH THE ART USA: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EXHIBIT. SIX IEA POSTS ACCEPTED THE SHOW BUT WERE LEFT ON THEIR OWN TO PRODUCE RELATED PRINT MATERIALS WITH WASHINGTON-PROVIDED SOURCES. IT TOOK FIELD INITIATIVE TO GET RSC-MANILA (UNFAILINGLY READY TO HELP) INVOLVED IN PRODUCING CATALOGS AND POSTERS FOR THE PIERRE CLERK EXHIBIT (EIGHT IEA COUNTRIES). NOW IEA POSTS ARE RECEIVING COPIES OF A FINE EASSY TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALLY PRODUCED CATALOGS FOR THE HELEN FRANKENTHALER SHOW. CANNOT WASHINGTON INVESTIGATE INTEREST AT FRANKENTHALER ITINERARY POSTS FOR RSC PRODUCED POSTERS, CATALOGS, INVITATIONS AND OTHER CREATIVE VISUAL PROMOTION IDEAS? MOREOVER, CAN IT NOT DO SO ON A REGULAR BASIS? WHATEVER OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE AMERICAN FRONTIER EXHIBITION, THE SHOW REMAINS A MODEL OF HOW TO INTEGRATE RESOURCES THAT IOP MIGHT PROFITABLY STUDY.

IV. WHAT'S RIGHT WITH WASHINGTON ?

MARGARET TAYLOR'S ARRANGMENT ON 24 HOURS'S NOTICE OF A U.S. PROGRAM FOR AN IMPORTANT POST HUMAN RIGHTS CONTACT, RESULTED IN DISCUSSIONS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT HER EFFORTS. FROILAN BACUNGAN, DIRECTOR UP'S PRESTIGIOUS LAW CENTER, FLEW TO THE U.S. UNEXPECTEDLY AT GOP URGING TO TAKE PART IN A DEBATE ON MARTIAL LAW SPONSORED BY UFW HEAD CESAR CHAVEZ. LEARNING OF HIS IMPENDING VISIT TO THE EAST COAST ONLY THE DAY BEFORE, TAYLOR ARRANGED CALLS FOR BACUNGAN ON DEANS AND PROFESSORS AT IMPORTANT

U.S. LAW SCHOOLS. THE DISCUSSIONS STIMULATED A POSSIBLE PROFES-
SORIAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN YALE AND U.P.
DAWSON

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